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* 1296 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, I do not put the question."

Orders prohibiting Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors from participating in political activities.

* 1297 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have passed any orders to the effect that Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors should not take part in political meetings ; and

(*b*) if so, when?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Orders prohibiting Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors from participating in political activities were issued in 1949."

Treatment given to Government Press employees in the Government T.B. Institute, Egmore, Madras, on the recommendation of the X-ray Unit.

* 1298 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of times the X-ray Unit was brought to the Government Press, Madras, in 1953 ; and

(*b*) how many persons were sent for treatment on the recommendation of this Unit?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) The X-ray Unit was brought to the Government Press, Madras, eleven times during 1953."

" (*b*) Twenty-two persons who were suspected to have tuberculosis were sent for further examination and treatment to the Government Tuberculosis Institute, Egmore, Madras."

Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state from his experience whether lead poisoning is a cause of tuberculosis? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is not asking for the policy of the Government, but only the personal experience of the Minister."

Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I do not mind, Sir, which Hon. Minister answers the question. I am asking for information. My hon. Friend, Sri Vinayakam, remarked, from what statistics I do not know, perhaps from statistics he culled from some literature, that lead poisoning was the cause of tuberculosis. That is a serious allegation, rather a new discovery. (Laughter.) Will one of the Hon. Ministers be pleased to give his personal opinion on that? "

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Mr. SPEAKER :—" If the Hon. Minister wants to answer the question, I have no objection."

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have no personal knowledge about these things, Sir. I am not a medical man, I must confess that. But here there is no report to show that the incidence of tuberculosis among the workers of the Government Press is attributable to the nature of work in the Press. The question of lead poisoning leading to tuberculosis is more or less a matter for medical research. I must say it seems to have a contageous effect on some of the hon. Members." (Laughter.)

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister was pleased to admit that 23 workers were affected by tuberculosis in the Government Press, Madras. May I know what the reasons or causes are which led to this disease, if it is not due to lead poisoning or occupational disease?"

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, some workers in the Press got the disease. On that account, the hon. Member cannot say that it was due to the nature of work. He cannot eradicate tuberculosis out of the country."

Grant from the Central Government for the removal of untouchability.

* 1299 Q.—Sri A. RATNAM (on behalf of Sri M. Dharmalingam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) whether any grant was received from the Central Government for the year 1953–54 for the removal of untouchability and civil disabilities of the Harijans; and

(b) if so, how much and what is the amount allotted to Chingleput district?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Government of India originally fixed a ceiling grant of Rs. 1·99 lakhs to this State for removal of untouchability but have subsequently sanctioned only Rs. 15,000. No district-war allotment has been made. The whole question is under correspondence."

Sri R. S. ARUMUGAM :—" ஸார், தீண்டாமையை ஒழிப்பதற்கு இந்தியா சர்க்கார் கொடுக்கிற பணத்திலிருந்து எவ்விதமான முறைகள் கையாளப்பட்டு எத்திட்டங்களுக்கெல்லாம் செலவு செய்யப்படுகின்றன என்பதை அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, a separate question may be put."

Sri A. RATNAM :—" ஸார், இது மிகமிக முக்கியமான பிரச்னையாக இருப்பதால் இதற்கு இன்று அரை மணி நேரம் ஒதுக்கிவைத்து விவாதத்திற்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."